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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 423 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY J. HARRIS, JUNE 23, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 23, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life, service, accomplishments and public  
2 dedication of Ahmeenah Young and expressing condolences to  
3 her family, friends and colleagues.

4 WHEREAS, Ahmeenah Young was born in South Philadelphia and  
5 graduated from St. Maria Goretti High School; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Young was a staunch social activist who, among  
7 other activities, worked for the American Friends Service  
8 Committee, an organization that works to end discrimination,  
9 violence and mass incarceration while building peace, economic  
10 justice and defending human rights; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Young began working for the Pennsylvania  
12 Convention Center Authority alongside Governor Ed Rendell and  
13 current Visit Philadelphia president and chief executive  
14 officer, Meryl Levitz and helped launch the Convention Center's  
15 extravagant 12-day opening in 1993; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Young left the Convention Center and served as  
17 vice president of corporate diversity at SearchWide LLC before  
18 becoming the general manager of the Independence Visitor Center;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Ms. Young returned to the Convention Center and, in  
3 2008, became the first African American and the first female to  
4 become president and chief executive officer of the Convention  
5 Center; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Young fought tirelessly for equal rights and the  
7 empowerment of minorities, which was evidenced by her work to  
8 ensure that one-third of the Convention Center's \$787 million  
9 expansion, completed in 2011, was contracted to disadvantaged  
10 and small business owners, women and minorities; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Young oversaw the day-to-day operations of the  
12 Convention Center, the 14th largest in the United States, and  
13 was responsible for managing a \$35 million budget; and

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Young retired from the Convention Center in 2013  
15 after serving more than 20 years with the organization; and

16 WHEREAS, On October 7, 2016, Ms. Young was appointed a  
17 commissioner to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board by  
18 Governor Tom Wolf; and

19 WHEREAS, Remembered for her vivaciousness, intelligence and  
20 passion for Pennsylvania, Ms. Young dedicated her time to a  
21 variety of charitable ventures throughout the Commonwealth,  
22 including the Governor's Advisory Commission on African American  
23 Affairs, the Philadelphia Eagles Oversight Committee for  
24 Affirmative Action, Hahnemann University Hospital, the African  
25 American Museum in Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Academy of the  
26 Fine Arts and Temple University School of Hospitality and  
27 Tourism to name a few; and

28 WHEREAS, Ms. Young was a member of the board of directors for  
29 the *Philadelphia Tribune* and co-hosted the Philadelphia  
30 Tribune's Most Influential African Americans banquet for many

1 years alongside Reverend Marshall Mitchell, pastor of Salem  
2 Baptist Church of Jenkintown; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Young maintained relations with the Triumph  
4 Baptist Church, serving as a member of the board of trustees and  
5 the Mosque of Shaikh M.R. Bawa Muhaiyaddeen; and

6 WHEREAS, Regarding Ms. Young, Congressman Dwight Evans  
7 declared, "She loved the city of Philadelphia, fought the battle  
8 for change and in my view will go down as one of the greatest  
9 citizens for the sake of this city. I called her the Harriet  
10 Tubman of the hospitality industry"; and

11 WHEREAS, Sadly, Ms. Young died on June 2, 2017, in her West  
12 Mount Airy home after a battle with cancer; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Young is survived by her daughter, Asiya Young,  
14 her son, Pakeso Young and her beloved grandchildren; therefore  
15 be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life,  
17 service, accomplishments and public dedication of Ahmeenah Young  
18 and express heartfelt condolences to her family, friends and  
19 colleagues.